

Airmen take flight from canvas to timber

By Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke
455th EOG Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Airmen here are now in the process of transitioning from living in temper tents to wooden structures called B-huts.

“These semi-permanent timber structures are replacing our tents which have exceeded their life expectancy in this harsh environment,” said Capt. Trey Sledge, 455th Expeditionary Support Squadron Civil Engineer Flight commander, deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

According to Sledge, the huts are not only an improvement on living standards, but erecting them are cheaper than replacing the tents.

“These huts are designed to last three to four years,” said Sledge. “After that, military operations are expected to move to the other side of the runway, where more permanent structures will be put up.”

The introduction of B-huts to the Air Force Village here offers significant improvement in multiple areas.

According to Command Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth McQuiston, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing deployed from Spangdahlem, the eight-section temper tents being replaced held 16 to 24 airmen. The new B-huts will only hold eight oc-



Fazell, who is a third country national here, uses a hand saw to cut a plank inside a B-hut at Air Force Village. The Afghan carpenters construct the huts with hand tools only.

cupants, enabling larger personal living space. But because space is limited in Air Force Village, Sledge said some airmen are being double bunked temporarily in order to empty tents to make room for hut construction.

Not only will living space be larger, but conditions will also be more comfortable.

“These huts will have hard walls that feature

insulation,” said McQuiston. “They will be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.” The timber walls will also offer more than climate control.

“The biggest advantage of these huts verses tents is the wind factor,” said Sledge. “When the

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Myers asks Americans to stay committed to war

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

SAN FRANCISCO – In these challenging times, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff asked Americans to remain intellectually involved in thinking of the war on terrorism.

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers spoke to the World Affairs Council here Oct. 19 about the threat of terrorism, about operations in Iraq and about the situation in Korea.

Myers asked the group to examine the threat facing America and its allies. “Determine what you think is at stake, and come to your own

conclusions, and how important you think it is,” he said. “My guess is that if you think about this seriously, you’ll come to the conclusion that there are not many options here.”

Myers said he believes the American way of life is at stake, and that terrorists see the freedoms Americans enjoy as a threat to them. They want to change the way Americans live their lives and eliminate the influence America has around the world, and their weapon is fear, he added. Myers asked the group to contemplate the effect the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, had on America, and then asked them what the effect would be if terrorists got weapons of mass destruction.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Muhammad, left, listens as attorneys Peter Greenspun, center, and Jonathan Shapiro watch Wednesday's trial proceedings.

Sniper defendant now chooses attorneys

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Reversing a decision he made on the first day of his murder trial, Washington-area sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad will no longer represent himself, the judge announced at the beginning of Wednesday's court session.

Also Wednesday, Muhammad's alleged accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, made a second appearance at the trial. Prosecutors brought him into the courtroom, outside the presence of the jury, to see if a victim of one of the 16 shootings linked to the suspects could identify him.

"The face, his color and his physical structure is very, very similar," said Muhammad Rashid, who was wounded in front of a Brandywine, Md., liquor store on Sept. 15, 2002.

As Malvo left the courtroom, he made eye contact with Muhammad, who then raised his hand in a loose fist and shook it several times in Malvo's direction.

Prince William County Circuit Judge LeRoy Millette, Jr. announced Muhammad's change of heart about representing himself after two bench conferences with the defendant, prosecutors and the two attorneys who have been advising Muhammad, Peter Greenspun and Jonathan Shapiro.

Greenspun and Shapiro will now return to the helm of Muhammad's defense.

Deadly toxic ricin found

WASHINGTON — The FBI and postal authorities are investigating traces of the deadly

toxin ricin found last week in a sealed envelope at an airport postal handling facility in Greenville, South Carolina, the Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday.

Authorities said the envelope contained an unsigned, threatening note that "demanded an action," but they said no connection to terrorism was apparent.

One law enforcement official said the note expressed anger over legislation regulating the trucking industry.

"Based on the evidence obtained so far, we do not believe this is linked to terrorism but is related to threats criminal in nature," DHS spokesman Brian Roehrke told *The Associated Press*.

Authorities said they have received no reports of illness. The Department of Health and Human Services and law enforcement agencies stressed no threat to public health was apparent.

Federal agents said they are conducting a criminal extortion investigation. "The demand is not for money, but we can't disclose the contents of the note at this time because it contains significant leads," an FBI official said.



Indian troops guard the residence of Indian Kashmir's chief minister.

Pakistan cautious on India offer to restore ties

NEW DELHI, India — Pakistan has given a mixed reaction to India's offer to restore air links and sporting ties as part of a new initiative to revive the stalled peace process with its nuclear-armed neighbor.

Islamabad said the proposal on travel and cricket and opening more visa offices were positive steps — but said Pa-

kistan was disappointed at India's failure to go further by including negotiations on Kashmir.

Announcing India's moves on Wednesday, Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha said the measures designed to restore contacts and reunite divided families would also involve a new bus service linking the capitals of Indian- and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir.

He added that India's No. 2 leader would meet with the Kashmiri separatists New Delhi has shunned for 13 years.

Ties between the two bitter nuclear foes deteriorated to the brink of war last year over what India said was Pakistani support for Islamic militants carrying out terrorist attacks on Indian soil — a charge Pakistan denies.

But tensions have eased since Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee offered a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan in April.

Rumsfeld memo consistent with public statements

WASHINGTON — A memo from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to his top deputies asking tough questions about the war on terrorism was mostly consistent with his public statements.

In the memo, Rumsfeld acknowledged U.S. forces would be in Iraq and Afghanistan a long time. "It will be a long, hard slog," he wrote.

Rumsfeld has not characterized it that way in public, but Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has used similar words.

"It's hard work. It is hard slogging," Myers testified September 9 before the Senate Armed Services Committee. "We have made tremendous progress. And we're winning."

Rumsfeld has refused, however, to put a timeline on how long U.S. troops would be in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We're committed to staying — as long as necessary with as many forces as necessary to successfully complete the mission," Rumsfeld said just Tuesday.

ANA demonstrates combat skills during live fire exercise after weeks of training

After two months of preparatory training the 2nd Kandak, 2nd Brigade, Afghan National Army, participated in a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) on the ranges outside Pole-e-Charki Sept. 17.

Lt. Col. Ghulam Hasan, 2nd Kandak commander, was justifiably proud of his men as they demonstrated their skills after weeks of training leading up to this event.

The CALFEX incorporated movement to contact utilizing available terrain with a dismounted attack on the objective supported by BMP and mortar fires.

The CALFEX began in the afternoon and continued on into the night as the soldiers became used to fighting under conditions of darkness.

Training during the last few weeks leading up to the CALFEX included weapons qualification, ambush drills, and movement to contact by squad, platoon, and company level combat elements.

The soldiers took their training seriously as they continued to ready themselves for possible deployment during the coming months.

One soldier from Kandahar Province said, "It has been very exciting to participate in this type of training alongside professional coalition officers and non-commissioned officers," he said. "I am much more confident in my abilities and know I will be able to rely on my fellow soldiers if and when we are called upon to go into action."

"Several of my friends said they wanted to join the ANA after they heard about my experiences over the last several weeks. I am very proud to be a part of our new National Army – knowing we are setting the example for the rest of Afghanistan."

(Information provided by CJTF 180 press release.)

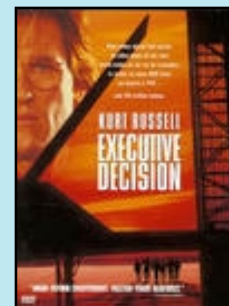
Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"Executive Decision"

1530Z at the MWR building:

When terrorists seize control of an airliner, an intelligence analyst accompanies a commando unit for a midair boarding operation.

Tomorrow's movie: "Ballistic"



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 39F	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 41F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 84F L: 48F	Dusty H: 84F L: 46F
Kabul:	Partly Cloudy H: 73F L: 46F	Partly Cloudy H: 72F L: 48F
Uzbekistan:	Partly Cloudy H: 80F L: 44F	Partly Cloudy H: 79F L: 50F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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wind starts blowing hard, the tent fly and walls are whipped around, creating a lot of noise and vibration." High winds salted with dust are featured nearly every day at Bagram, Afghanistan. "But we'll also be able to put up shelves and hang pictures to personalize the space," he added.

"This will be a huge morale boost once we get everyone in huts," said Lt. Col. John Doherty, 455th Expeditionary Services Squadron commander deployed from the Pentagon. "Each person is expected to have their own enclosed section by the end of December."

The road Bagram Air Base is taking to build these huts also offers jobs to the local community.

"The base is contracting the job out to the locals to provide more employment for third-country nationals," said McQuiston. Not only do the huts improve the lives of deployed members, but also the economy here.

"The American way of business is not to conquer countries," said Doherty, "but to come in and achieve our national objectives, which in this case is getting rid of terrorists, and then leave the country in better condition than we found it. Contracting out these jobs is not only a way to improve the economy, but it also sows the seeds

of democracy."

Because of the third-world carpenters, airmen are witnessing a different type of construction. Although electricity is available to them on base, the Afghani carpenters erect all the timber structures with hand tools only.

"That's their method of construction," said Sledge. "It's the way they're used to doing it because there's not electricity available outside the base."

But allowing local nationals access to the base can be a dangerous situation if it is not handled with tight security. Most al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists blend right in with the local population. According to Staff Sgt. Kristin Bunn, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group non-commissioned officer in charge of force protection security program, the Afghani carpenters must go through five security check points before they can even get through the gate. Even items such as small mirrors are forbidden to prevent signaling from on base.

Once on base, security doesn't lighten up. These contracted carpenters must be escorted as long as they're working on the installation. Third-country-national escorts are airmen assigned to this task.

"Literally every day we have to go to the gate and escort them from the security check

points," said Bunn who is deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. "It is a requirement to have at least one guard for every ten workers." Bunn said keeping accountability of all the workers is a heavy responsibility.

"A lot of people look at us like we're working at the bottom of the barrel," she said, "but if we fail at our job, someone could get hurt or killed."

"I think the TCN escorts are our unsung heroes in the B-hut construction effort," said Doherty. "It's an underrated position, but very critical. Escorts allow the construction to go on without threat to other service members so the mission can be accomplished."

Before construction even started however, the Air Force was working with the Army on a new design for these B-huts, said Master Sgt. Robert Miller, 455th ESS engineering superintendent deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

"We wanted upgraded huts from what the Army was using," said Miller.

The new design features larger living quarters with higher walls and screened windows, said McQuiston.

"Now, our new design for B-huts has been adopted by the Army and the rest of the coalition," said Miller. "It's been a long process so far but it will be worth the wait."

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"It's not like the Cold War, where we knew what the enemy's capabilities were – we kept pretty good track of that. Their intent was always the question mark," Myers said. "Now we are in the 21st century security environment, and we know what the intent is – that question mark has gone away. Capabilities is the issue." Ensuring terrorists do not get weapons of mass destruction from rogue states is a top U.S. objective, he said.

Myers discussed ongoing operations in Iraq and how the United States would know when the operation is a success. "In Iraq, success will be when there are Iraqis in charge, the situation is secure, and the infrastructure and economy are strong enough to grow and support their new constitution and political process," he said.

On whether the military is being spread too thin, the general said the U.S. armed forces can handle current operations and any possible operations in other likely trouble spots. He said the Joint Staff and the services constantly examine the situation around the world to see if U.S. armed forces can continue to handle the situation.

The U.S. military is, however, looking to pull back on some commitments that have outlived their usefulness, Myers said. One example is in the Sinai, where the United States has maintained a reinforced battalion for more than 20 years. Myers said there is no military reason for the troops to remain in the region.

The general also cited the more than 4,000 U.S. troops in the Balkans.

He said the military tasks spelled out in the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords have been accomplished. While the United States will not pull out unilaterally – NATO will make the decision on troop levels – there is nothing going on in the region that cannot be handled by a trained and equipped and fair police force, Myers said. He added the nations involved in the region need to speed up the civil administration of the region so the military can move out.

Myers said the United States is examining how the U.S. military is arranged in the world. "In Korea, a lot of our posts, camps and stations in Korea are exactly where they were when the armistice was signed in 1953," he said, an arrangement that is not an efficient use of U.S. troops. Myers said the United States is in discussions with South Korean officials on the right number and positions of U.S. forces in Korea.

Myers spoke of the sacrifices U.S. service members are making in the war on terrorism. He said the country must make these sacrifices, because "the stakes are so high."

"Every life we lose is a personal tragedy, and people are wounded too," he said. "If you talk to those individuals, they don't feel like they are victims. They understand what they are fighting for. They understand how important it is, and they understand what's at stake here. If you think back to your attitude right after Sept. 11 – right after the wake-up call that said this is a powerful force that is really ... trying to do us in – then you understand what this is all about. It's not about the losses we take; it's about the successes, and how we can work them."



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

Yankees captain comes through as usual



Derek Jeter doubled in the fourth inning, singled in the sixth, doubled in the eighth and scored three runs.

MIAMI—Derek Jeter did what none of the other Yankees could: He got a hit off Josh Beckett.

When Beckett was breezing through the New York lineup, looking like a modern-day Don Larsen, Jeter doubled in the fourth inning to become his team's first runner and scored the tying run.

Jeter doubled again in the eighth to chase Beckett and scored the go-ahead run when Hideki Matsui singled to break up the tie, sending the Yankees to a 6-1 win over

the Florida Marlins on Tuesday night and a 2-1 World Series lead.

When the Yankees were down 5-2 in the eighth inning against Boston in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series, Jeter got them going with a double that started the three-run rally off Pedro Martinez.

Beckett was throwing 97 mph fastballs and popping curves by the rest of the Yankees, making them look like the Detroit Tigers. But Jeter? He was the only one Beckett couldn't solve.

"He was throwing the ball extremely well," Jeter said.

Whenever Jeter didn't get a hit, Beckett had a 1-2-3 inning. Jeter went 3-for-4 against Beckett. The rest of the Yankees went 0-for-21.

"We were aware of that," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We kept wanting him to come up again."

IRL driver Renna dies after crash at Indy



Tony Renna is the 67th person fatally injured at the track since it opened in 1909.

INDIANAPOLIS — IRL driver Tony Renna was killed in a wreck Wednesday during testing at Indianapolis Motor Speedway after he lost control at nearly 220 mph, went airborne and crashed into a fence.

The accident ended the promising career of the 26-year-old Renna, who joined the Indy Racing League as a substitute driver and moved up to major auto racing with an impressive performance in the Indianapolis 500.

Renna signed earlier this month with Target/Chip Ganassi Racing, one of the elite IRL teams, and he was mak-

ing his first track appearance for Ganassi.

"Tony Renna was a rising star in Indy car racing. All of us involved in racing feel a great loss," said Tony George, president of the speedway and the IRL.

Renna was the first IRL driver to die in a crash since Scott Brayton in 1996 at Indianapolis, and he was the 67th person fatally injured at the track since it opened in 1909.

Renna was on his fourth lap when his G Force-Toyota crashed as he came out of the third turn. He was testing the same car that IRL series champion Scott Dixon drove the day before at up to 230 mph. Dixon also drives for Ganassi.

Ganassi said Renna did not hit anything before he lost control, went airborne, cleared the wall and crashed into the catch fence during testing, which was closed to the public and news media. The team was not sure if something broke in the car.

Renna was taken to Methodist Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Disgruntled Dillon wants out of Cincinnati



Corey Dillon is one of only four players in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first four seasons.

CINCINNATI – Corey

Dillon feels unappreciated in Cincinnati and thinks he'd be better off somewhere else.

The disgruntled running back vented weeks of frustration Wednesday, turning the attention on himself as the Bengals (2-4) prepared for a pivotal game. He made it clear he wants out.

After watching practice from the sideline with a strained groin, Dillon told reporters he hasn't gotten the ball enough in recent years, even when he's been healthy. He also said he's tired of his treatment by fans

and the media, who have started questioning his durability.

"I would prefer to be in a place where I'm appreciated," Dillon said. "It could be anywhere. Who knows? I'm just going to get to a place where I'm happy and I feel appreciated and they recognize my talents and I can achieve my goals."

"Wherever that may be, I don't know. But that's the first thing on my offseason list."

Dillon's comments represented the biggest challenge yet to first-year coach Marvin Lewis, who has been trying to get his most accomplished player to buy into his team-first philosophy.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Three explosions rock Afghan city

(*Afghanistan newstroke*) – Three bombs exploded in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad today, tearing down walls at two government offices, police said.

A witness said several people were injured by glass from windows shattered in the explosions.

The first blast was near the communication department. Within 10 minutes, a second bomb went off outside the electricity department about one kilometer (a half mile) away on the same street, said Haji Ajab Shah, the Jalalabad police chief. A third bomb exploded harmlessly in a field near a residential district, Shah said, speaking by telephone.

Taliban spokesman Maulvi Abdur Rahman Mansoor claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying "we will carry out more such operations against the oppressors."

"Today's three explosions is a warning to foreigners to leave our country as soon as possible, or they would be faced with more problems," said Mansoor, a Taliban commander in eastern Afghanistan. He reached *The Associated Press* by satellite telephone, saying he was somewhere in Afghanistan.

On Monday, pamphlets purportedly signed by Mansoor were distributed in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar, vowing the Taliban will continue their holy war against the Americans until they leave Afghanistan.

A U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban militia in late 2001 for harboring al Qaeda, which is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. Thousands of international troops, most of them American soldiers, are in Afghanistan searching for fugitives from the two groups.

Pakistan begins fortifying Afghan border

By Munir Ahmad

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) – Pakistan has started fortifying its border with Afghanistan with fences and checkpoints to prevent al Qaeda and Taliban fugitives from sneaking into the country, the military spokesman said Wednesday.

New light towers and checkpoints were being erected along the barren western frontier around the town of Chaman, a main border crossing, about 470 miles southwest of the capital, Islamabad, said Gen. Shaukat Sultan.

The traffic back and forth across the sparsely inhabited border region has been a source of contention between Pakistan and the Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai, which has accused Pakistan of sheltering fighters of the ousted Taliban regime or their al Qaeda allies.

Pakistan denies knowingly giving safe haven to Afghan insurgents. But the border area is the home of deeply conserva-

tive tribes who share the culture and tribal view of Islam imposed by the Taliban during their five-year rule of Afghanistan.

Pakistan - a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terror - says it is doing whatever possible to stop rebels from using its soil against Afghanistan's fledgling government.

Afghanistan's state-run television Tuesday reported that Pakistan was constructing a 25-mile-long wall along the Afghan border without seeking permission from Karzai's government.

Sultan said the report was inaccurate, and Pakistan was constructing no such wall.

"We are only fencing our border to fight terrorism," he told *The Associated Press*.

Pakistan did not need permission from any country to take measures safeguarding its border, he added.

Chaman is across the border from Spinboldak, an Afghan town where suspected Taliban and al Qaeda insurgents have often targeted U.S.-led coalition forces.

"So, you want to super size your commission ..."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support